3/10/78

Dear Sylvia,

During the course of the day the ABC-TV researcher in DC became concerned about whether i t was wise for his man to question about technical matters without subject expertise. I could see the fear of an egged face. This made me visualize Epsteinker being given more credibility as a result. So, given the limited amount of air time anyway I suggested a different line of questions.

Fortunately the work Jim had already done in copying legal papers was not wasted. They will ask how the CIA could have made Nosenko and material available to Epsteink when it had sworn exactly the opposite in my C.A.75-1448.

They will ask why should Snepp be prosecuted when he is not even accused of giving any secrets away and Angleton not be prosecuted because he did in fact disclose the secret, that which the CIA swore in court it could not disclose.

As I had anticipated Paintmeyellow Epsteink would not confront, I was told. I said I had already asked for response time so why not let me follow the first time there is an opening? He liked it but he got no firm promise. I suggested that after that we could invite Epsteink to a "Face Off," I think they call their confrontation, and let him decline again.

We'll see what happens. But I think it is safer this way and if there is time for response - imagine me defending the FBI! - I'll use the factual material.

I hope they like the idea of waving a CIA affidavit on camera and quoting the language I'm sure Jim marked but does not require marking.

Those people are not ABC and do not make policy. But they see clearly enough that there is a real question Epstein should have addressed: was Oswald CIA's agent? Now if I understand the New York bunch, they could go for that.

Time will tell.

They are to have phoned you and Jerry (for financial and other arrangements of which he had told me). I don't know if they did. You may not know of the show. But I will have a tape and it should be a clear tape. That is virtually the only thing for which I took time today except for working away at clearing my lane. I'm tired from it, too, which is good for me but not good for my doing other after-supper work.

The country has some disadvantaged. It is not as easy to get some kinds of work done. We had to get a new TV, it was supposed to have a provision for connecting a tape recorder, it did not, and only today was I able to get a man to come and make a temporary provision pending doing a real wiring job.

Even though the exertion is good for me I am sorry that the time I spend trying to clear out lane before it can freeze again prevents other things. It warmed some today. This permitted sheeting off large cakes of ice which I could then break into piece I could lift with a shovel. I hope to be able to complete that tomorrow. Can you imagine a lane as long as a football field solid with ice as much as six-eight inches thick? Not good for safe travel.

Nonetheless I spent rather much time on this today also. Except for giving Lane a little Flynt-ing on an Atlanta radio station (the guy knew me from the north) and the mail and getting able to tape and the lane and the phone I was able to do nothing else.

So, I hope it was enough and that the people who are not subject experts can handle it and the Epsteinker. If there is the sequel it will be much better from Washington after Epsteinker because the people in Washington do not like the kind of thing he has done and what it does to them, the position in which it puts them. They are not showbiz people even if the news on their medium is more showbiz. Best wishes,